

Dynamic Disciples: Discovering the Power Within Through Prayer

Week 6: The Priority and Locks of Prayer

“Weekly Takeaways”

“True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth”.

Charles Spurgeon

Battle Plan

- Enlistment
 - **The Priority of Prayer**
- Basic training
 - **The Locks of Prayer**
- Conditional
- Strategies
- Targets
- Ammunition

Key Verse

- *First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 1 Timothy 2:1*

Priority of Prayer

- Priority of prayer is a big deal to God and should be a big deal to us.
- Prioritizing prayer means prioritizing God Himself.
- A deep devotion to prayer was always connected to the success of the New Testament church.
- Devotion involves committing to something consistently and frequently. To be consistently devoted to prayer, we must train ourselves in this practice. It does not come naturally. We must train ourselves to be in constant communion with God.

Results of a church Truly devoted to prayer

- Evangelism of the lost (*Col. 4:3; 1 Tim., 2:1-8*)
- Cultivation of discipleship (*Luke 11:1-2; John 17*)
- True Christian fellowship (*Acts 2:42*)
- Wise decisions (*James 1:5*)
- Obstacles overcome (*Mark 11:22-24*)
- Needs met (*Matt. 6:11; Luke 11:5-13*)
- True worship ignited (*Matt. 6:13; Acts 2:41-47*)
- Revival sparked (*2 Chron. 7:14*)

Locks of Prayer

1. Praying without knowing God through Jesus (*John 14:6*)
2. Praying from an unrepentant heart (*Psalms 103:14; Psalm 51:17*)
3. Praying for show (*Matt. 6:5*)
4. Praying repetitive, empty words (*Matt. 6:7-8*)
5. Prayers not prayed (*James 4:2*)
6. Praying with a lustful heart (*James 4:3*)
7. Praying while mistreating your spouse (*1 Peter 3:7*)
8. Praying while ignoring the poor (*Proverbs 21:13*)

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9. Praying with bitterness in your heart toward someone (Mark 11:25-26)
10. Praying with a faithless heart (*Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-8*)

Evening Discussion

1. Why do you think churches struggle with prioritizing prayer?
2. What would change at your church if your congregation truly became devoted to prayer?
3. What would need to change in your life for you to be more devoted to prayer?
4. Did you identify any locks of prayer in your own life?
5. If so, what steps are you taking to eliminate them from your life?

Effective Takeaways

- Those who haven't believed in God for the forgiveness of their sins cannot expect God to feel obligated to respond.
- Bitterness is a toxin that not only poisons us spiritually, mentally, even physically, but also poisons the effectiveness of prayer and full experience of our relationship with God.
- We should ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- It takes devotion to make prayer a priority!